

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EUR-12 IO-10 /072 W
----- 091457

R 051145Z DEC 74

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3101

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 1057

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CG PINT AO

SUBJECT: KATANGAN GENDARMES

REF: KINSHASA 10167

1. PRESIDENT MOBUTU ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE DISMANTLING OF THE KATANGAN GENDARMES. WHEN PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER SOARES WAS IN KINSHASA RECENTLY THE FIRST ITEM PRESIDENT MOBUTU RAISED WITH HIM WAS A REQUEST THAT THE PORTUGUESE DISARM THE GENDARMES IMMEDIATELY, AS THEY ARE LIKELY CANDIDATES FOR THE NUCLEUS OF ANY MERCENARY FORCE THAT MIGHT BE FORMED. SOARES PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER, BUT MADE NO COMMITMENT. MOBUTU'S OWN AMNESTY OFFER IS AN ATTEMPT ON HIS PART TO HELP SPEED THE FINAL BREAKUP OF THE GROUP, WHICH WOULD ALSO ELIMINATE A FEW FEARS AND PHOBIAS HE HAS HIMSELF ON THE SUBJECT.

2. ANGOLA'S LIBERATION GROUPS ARE JUST AS ANXIOUS AS MOBUTU ABOUT THE GENDARMES AND THE OTHER SPECIAL MILITARY OR PARAMILITARY FORCES IN ANGOLA: SPECIAL GROUPS, SPECIAL TROOPS (CAMBINDA), OPVDCA (MILITIA), RURAL GUARDS AND FLECHAS. THE FOREMOST CONCERN OF THE PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES AND THE LIBERATION GROUPS IS INTERNAL PEACE AND THEY ARE ALL GIVING PRIORITY ATTENTION TO TWO FACETS OF THE PROBLEM: THE DISMANTLING OF THE PRESENT SECURITY AND MILITARY APPARATUS AND THE CREATION OF A NEW FORCE THAT CAN MAINTAIN ORDER

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WHEN THE PORTUGUESE LEAVE. TO MANY OBSERVERS THE TASK SEEMS

IMPOSSIBLE AND IDEAS ON WHAT TO DO AND HOW TO DO IT CHANGE
ALMOST DAILY, AS I HAVE POINTED OUT IN PREVIOUS CABLES. WE HAVE
IN PREPARATION A TELEGRAM ON THE LATEST THINKING HERE.

3. RODRIGUES' EXPLANATION OF HIS ROLE IN THE KATANGAN GENDARME
PROBLEM IS ESSENTIALLY THE SAME RUNDOWN HE GAVE ASSISTANT
SECRETARY EASUM AND ME A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO. I HAVE TRIED TO
VERIFY THE FACTS. HIS STORY MAY SEEM FAR FETCHED TO OBSERVERS OUT-
SIDE ANGOLA, BUT IT IS ACTUALLY PRETTY ROUTINE STUFF, CONSIDERING
WHAT IS GOING ON HERE.
KILLORAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMNESTY, PARAMILITARY FORCES, EXILES, POLICE FORCES, MERCENARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LUANDA01057
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740353-0429
From: LUANDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741258/aaaabxpy.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: KINSHASA 10167
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 AUG 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <14 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KATANGAN GENDARMES
TAGS: PINT, PINS, CG, AO, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005